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SUBJECT: BOSHAB ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

¶1. (SBU) Evariste Boshab, majority candidate for National Assembly President, easily beat opposition leader Francois Mwamba in the April 17 election to replace the National Assembly Executive Directorate ("Bureau Executif" in French). Boshab, Secretary General of the presidential party PPRD ("Parti du Peuple pour la Reconstruction et la Democratie" in French), collected 329 of the 484 votes cast, while Mwamba received 75, independent candidate Baudouin Idambito garnered 54, and Christian Democrat Gilbert Kiakwama mustered 15.

¶2. (SBU) The presidential majority alliance AMP ("Alliance de la Majorite Presidentielle" in French) retained control of the entire directorate, winning all seven seats. In addition to Boshab, who is from West Kasai, the six remaining offices were filled as follows:

-- First Vice President ("Premier Vice President") Boris Mbuku, Bandundu Province, AMP/FR ("Forces de Renouveau");

-- Second Vice President ("Deuxieme Vice President") Georgine Madiko, Bandundu Province, AMP/PALU ("Parti Lumumbiste Unifie");

-- Secretary ("Rapporteur") Wildor Makonero, South Kivu, AMP/PPRD ;

-- Deputy Secretary ("Rapporteur Adjoint") Sophie Kakudji, Katanga, AMP/UNAFEC ("Union des Nationalistes Federalistes du Congo");

-- Administrative and Financial Control Officer ("Questeur"), Dieudonne Bolenge Tenke, Orientale, AMP/MSR ("Mouvement Social pour le Renouveau");

-- Deputy Administrative and Financial Control Officer ("Questeur Adjoint"), Robert Bopolo, Equateur, AMP/PDC ("Parti Democrate Chretien").

¶3. (SBU) The election began on April 17 and ended April 18. 57 candidates competed for 7 posts. Candidates were given five minutes to speak before the plenary, a time limit that was often exceeded, and votes were counted openly by a special technical committee set up to oversee the elections.

¶4. (SBU) Comment: The election of Boshab, co-founder and Secretary General of the PPRD (as was his predecessor Vital Kamerhe), is no surprise. Some observers predicted that rifts within the AMP prior to the election could jeopardize his candidacy, but the large majority by which he won (329 of 484 votes cast) indicates that deputies obeyed party guidance at voting time. Critics have stated that payments for votes were circulated during the voting, an accusation that cannot be discounted. The election and installation of the new directorate ends the months-long drama surrounding the succession of outgoing National Assembly president Vital Kamerhe, who pledged his assistance to the incoming directorate in his closing remarks. Boshab and other members of directorate have every incentive to follow President Kabila's direction, if not out of political conviction then because of the still fresh memory of Kamerhe's dismissal. End Comment.

